

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A certification authority for generating certificates in response to
2 respective certification requests, the certification authority comprising:

3 A. a computer that is bootable from a removable medium; and

4 B. a removable medium comprising a machine readable medium having
5 encoded thereon:

6 i. an operating system module configured to enable the computer to
7 boot from the removable medium; and

8 ii. a certificate generation module configured to, after the computer has
9 been booted, control the computer to facilitate the generation of at least one
10 certificate in response to an associated certification ~~certificate~~ request, ~~the~~
11 ~~certification authority module being configured to provide that the computer~~
12 ~~not be remotely controlled during a certificate generation session.~~

1 2. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which said
2 certification authority operates under control of an operator, the certificate generation
3 module enabling the computer to display certification ~~certificate~~ request information
4 associated with the certification ~~certificate~~ request to the operator and receive operator input
5 information from an operator, the certificate generation module enabling the computer to
6 use the input information from the operator in generating the at least one certificate.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which the operator
2 input information includes operator authentication information, the certificate ~~certification~~

3 generation module including an authentication module configured to enable the computer to
4 receive the operator authentication information and verify that the operator is authorized to
5 control the certification authority.

1 4. (Original) A certification authority as defined in claim 3 in which the certificate includes
2 an digital signature comprising a signature that is generated using private encryption key,
3 the certificate generation module including

4 A. an encrypted private key;

5 B. a decryption module configured to enable the computer to use the operator
6 authentication information to decrypt the encrypted private key thereby to obtain a
7 private key; and

8 C. a digital signature module configured to enable the computer to generate a
9 digital signature from information in the at least one certificate using the private key.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which ~~the~~
2 ~~certificate generation module further enables the operator to receive operator input~~
3 ~~information relating to information in the certificate request~~, the certificate generation
4 module further includes ~~including~~:

5 A. a certification request information display module configured to enable the
6 computer to display certification request information to the operator; and

7 B. a certification request edit module configured to enable the computer to
8 receive ~~cert~~ certification request modification information from the operator and
9 update information in the certification ~~certificate~~ request in response thereto.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 2 in which the
2 certificate generation module further includes a certification request approval module
3 configured to enable the computer to receive operator input information comprising a
4 certification ~~certificate~~ request approval and generate the certificate ~~request~~ in response
5 thereto.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which ~~information~~
2 ~~in a certification request is in a predetermined format~~, the certificate generation module
3 further includes ~~including~~ a certification request verification module configured to enable
4 said computer to determine whether the information in the at least one certification request
5 is in ~~the~~ a predetermined format.

1 8. (Original) A certification authority as defined in claim 1 in which the computer is
2 connected to retrieve certification requests from a remote storage location, the certificate
3 generation module further including a communication control module configured to enable
4 the computer to retrieve certification requests from the remote storage location.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in connection with a computer
2 to form a certification authority for generating certificates in response to respective
3 certification requests, the computer being bootable from a removable medium, the computer
4 program product comprising a removable medium in the form of a machine readable
5 medium having encoded thereon:

6 A. an operating system module configured to enable the computer to boot from
7 the removable medium; and

8 B. a certificate generation module configured to, after the computer has been
9 booted, control the computer to facilitate the generation of at least one certificate in
10 response to an associated certification ~~certificate~~ request, ~~the certification authority~~
11 ~~module being configured to provide that the computer not be remotely controlled~~
12 ~~during a certificate generation session.~~

1 10. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which said certification
2 authority operates under control of an operator, the certificate generation module enabling
3 the computer to display certification request information associated with the certification
4 request to the operator and receive operator input information from an operator, the
5 certificate generation module enabling the computer to use the input information from the
6 operator in generating the at least one certificate.

1 11. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the operator
2 input information includes operator authentication information, the certificate generation

3 module including an authentication module configured to enable the computer to receive the
4 operator authentication information and verify that the operator is authorized to control the
5 certification authority.

1 12. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 in which the certificate
2 includes a signature comprising a signature that is encrypted using a private encryption key,
3 the certificate generation module including
4 A. an encrypted private key;
5 B. a decryption module configured to enable the computer to use the operator
6 authentication information to decrypt the encrypted private key thereby to obtain a
7 private key; and
8 C. a digital signature module configured to enable the computer to generate a
9 digital signature from information in the at least one certificate and encrypt the
10 digital signature using the private key.

1 13. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the certificate
2 generation module further enables the operator to receive operator input information
3 relating to information in the certification request, the certificate generation module further
4 including:
5 A. a certification request information display module configured to enable the
6 computer to display certification information to the operator; and

7 B. a certification request edit module configured to enable the computer to
8 receive certification request modification information from the operator and update
9 information in the certification request in response thereto.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 10 in which the
2 certificate generation module further includes a certification request approval module
3 configured to enable the computer to receive operator input information comprising a
4 certification request approval and generate the certificate in response thereto.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which
2 ~~information in a certification request is in a predetermined format,~~ the certificate generation
3 module further includes ~~including~~ a certification request verification module configured to
4 enable said computer to determine whether the information in the at least one certification
5 request is in ~~the~~ a predetermined format.

1 16. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 9 in which the computer is
2 connected to retrieve certification requests from a remote storage location, the certificate
3 generation module further including a communication control module configured to enable
4 the computer to retrieve certification requests from the remote storage location.